

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 IO-13 ACDA-07 DHA-02 CU-02 AID-05 OMB-01
/086 W

-----301152Z 067248 /44

R 292055Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 492

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 2068

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY TODMAN

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, XM, DR
SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S OAS SPEECH

REF: STATE 084912

1. WHILE THE MAIN DOMINICAN IMPRESSION OF PRESIDENT'S OAS
SPEECH WAS THAT THERE WILL BE A NEW STYLE IN US RELATIONS
WITH THE LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES, MANY OF ITS
SUBSTANTIVE POINTS HAVE APPLICATION TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

A. HUMAN RIGHTS

SENSITIVE TO US CONCERN, THE GODR IS GIVING INCREASED ATTENTION
TO HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES AND WILL CONTINUE TO RESPOND POSITIVELY
TO US CONCERN AS LONG AS THE US DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE INTERVENING
IN DOMINICAN INTERNAL AFFAIRS. AT SAME TIME, THE GOVERNMENT
FEELS COMPELLED TO TAKE FIRM AND, AS NECESSARY, HARSH MEASURES
TO DEAL WITH EXCESSES OF THE VIOLENCE-PRONE EXTREME LEFT WHICH
HAS A RECORD OF ASSASSINATIONS, KIDNAPPINGS AND ROBBERIES.
WHILE HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATIONS SERVE THE CAUSE OF HUMANITY
BY KEEPING PRESSURE ON GOVERNMENTS TO RESPECT HUMAN RIGHTS AND
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CORRECT ABUSES, TO EXTENT THAT THEY UNCRITICALLY ACCEPT ALLEGA-
TIONS OF ABUSES, THEIR CREDIBILITY IS LESSENERED AND SUSPICIONS
ARE FED THAT THEIR ALLEGATIONS ARE INSPIRED BY PARTISAN MOTIVES.
IN CASE OF DR, WHERE OPPOSITION GENERALLY ALLOWED TO CARRY OUT
ITS ACTIVITIES FREELY, GOVERNMENT VIOLATIONS OF HUMAN AND CIVIL
RIGHTS HAVE USUALLY, THOUGH NOT ALWAYS, BEEN REACTIONS TO VIOLENT
TACTICS OF EXTREMIST GROUPS. THE USG CAN BEST EXERT ITS INFLUENCE

HERE TO PROMOTE HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS OBSERVANCE AND CORRECT ABUSES BY BASING ITS POSITION ON IMPARTIAL AND DOCUMENTED EVIDENCE AND TAKING ACCOUNT OF THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND POLITICAL CIRCUMSTANCES OF THIS HISTORICALLY UNSTABLE AND TROUBLED COUNTRY.

B. CONSULTATIONS

CONSULTATION IMPLIES CONSIDERATION OF INTERESTS AND VIEWS OF OTHERS IN DETERMINING POLICIES. SINCE SUGAR IS VITAL TO THE DOMINICAN ECONOMY AND THE DR IS THE COUNTRY MOST VULNERABLE TO CHANGES IN US SUGAR IMPORT PROGRAMS, IT IS IMPORTANT TO OUR RELATIONS WITH THE DR THAT ITS INTERESTS AND VIEWS BE GIVEN FULL CONSIDERATION IN FORMULATION OF US SUGAR IMPORT POLICY.

C. CULTURAL EXCHANGES

DR PROXIMITY TO THE US, ESPECIALLY TO PUERTO RICO, PROVIDES OPPORTUNITIES FOR EXPANDED CULTURAL EXCHANGES WITH THE DR. YET ONLY LIMITED FUNDS HAVE BEEN MADE AVAILABLE FOR SUCH ACTIVITY. INCREASED FUNDS WOULD ENABLE US TO EXPLOIT MORE FULLY THE OPPORTUNITIES TO DEVELOP OUR EXCHANGE PROGRAMS, IN AREAS SUCH AS SPORTS, TO INCLUDE DOMINICAN SECTORS (E.G. YOUTH) WHICH ARE NOT REACHED BY EXISTING US PROGRAMS. OUR EXPERIENCE WITH "OPERATION SHOESTRING" IN CONVINCING THAT MORE OFFICIAL FUNDS FOR SUCH PURPOSES ARE WARRANTED.

D. COOPERATION AND DEVELOPMENT

AS CONCESSIONAL BILATERAL ASSISTANCE TO THE MORE ADVANCED
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DEVELOPING COUNTRIES IS PHASED OUT AND AS LA GOVERNMENTS BECOME MORE RESISTANT TO DIRECT PRIVATE INVESTMENT, PERHAPS WE SHOULD SEEK TO DEVELOP ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES TO MEET THE INTEREST OF HEMISPHERIC COUNTRIES IN TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER. THESE MIGHT TAKE THE FORM OF CONCESSIONAL GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ARRANGEMENTS OR NEW INCENTIVES TO THE US BUSINESS COMMUNITY TO DEVELOP ARRANGEMENTS TO ACCOMMODATE LA CONCERNS ABOUT LICENSING AND DIRECT INVESTMENTS.

E. FREEDOM OF TRAVEL

THIS IS LITERALLY A TWO-WAY STREET. THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS SUPPORTING FREEDOM OF TRAVEL COME AGAINST THE BACKDROP OF THE IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT OF 1952, WHICH PLACES VARIOUS OBSTACLES TO TRAVEL OF FOREIGNERS TO THE US. THE PURPOSE INDICATED BY THIS ASPECT OF THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH COULD BE FURTHERED BY AMENDING THE INA AT LEAST TO ELIMINATE THE PROHIBITION OF ENTRY OF PERSONS WHO DO NOT SHARE OUR DEMOCRATIC IDEALS OR DID NOT DO SO IN THE PAST, WHILE PRESERVING OUR ABILITY TO

REFUSE ADMISSION TO THOSE INTENDING TO ENGAGE IN ACTS OF VIOLENCE
OR IN ACTIVITIES TO SUBVERT OUR DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS.

F. ARMS RESTRAINT

MAJOR PURPOSES OF THE US SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM--PROMOTE
STABILITY, ENCOURAGE CONSULTATION WITH OTHER COUNTRIES ON SECURITY
MATTERS, ENHANCE US INFLUENCE ON MILITARY ELEMENTS WHO PLAY
AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE COUNTRY'S POWER STRUCTURE, AND HELP LIMIT
APPETITES FOR ARMS--ARE WELL SERVED BY THE PROGRAM IN THE DR.
OUR INTERESTS WOULD BE SERVED BY REPROGRAMMING IMET AND FMS FUNDS
FROM COUNTRIES WHICH ARE NO LONGER ELIGIBLE FOR SECURITY ASSIS-
TANCE OR HAVE TERMINATED THEIR INTEREST IN THE PROGRAM TO COUNTRIES,
WUCH AS THE DR, WHERE THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM PRODUCES
DESIRED EFFECTS, PARTICULARLY IN THE MILITARY TRAINING SECTOR.

G. CUBA AND THE U.S.

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OUR CONTINUED RIO TREATY COMMITMENT HAS CONTRIBUTED TO HEMISPHERE
PEACE AND A LOW PER CAPITA EXPENDITURE ON ARMS, MAKING COUNTRIES
OF THE AREA MORE DISPOSED TO CHANNEL THEIR SCARCE RESOURCES INTO
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT RATHER THAN INTO SOPHISTICATED
WEAPONS AND STOCKPILES OF ARMS. HOWEVER, TO MANY IN THIS HEMIS-
PHERE, CUBA REMAINS A PLAUSIBLE THREAT TO THEIR SECURITY. AS THE
US SEEKS NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH CUBA, MANY LATIN AMERICANS
HAVE A PERVASIVE UNEASINESS ABOUT OUR COMMITMENT. THEREFORE, AS
WE PROCEED IN OUR EFFORTS TO RESTORE NORMAL RELATIONS WITH CUBA,
IT WOULD BE USEFUL TO MAKE CLEAR THAT NEITHER OUR OVERTURES
TOWARD CUBA NOR OUR RECEPTIVITY TOWARD CUBAN INITIATIVES DIMINISHES
IN ANY WAY OUR DETERMINATION TO HONOR OUR RIO TREATY COMMITMENT.
WE SHOULD ALSO TAKE ACCOUNT OF DOMINICAN CONCERNS RE EFFECTS OF
NORMALIZATION OF US-CUBAN RELATIONS ON DR'S SUGAR EXPORTS AND
ITS BURGEONING TOURIST INDUSTRY.

2. BEYOND THE SUBSTANCE OF OUR FOREIGNPOLICIES, DOMINICANS,
ALONG WITH THE GOVERNMENTS AND PEOPLES IN OTHER COUNTRIES OF
THE AREA, WILL BE LOOKING FOR SIGNS OF US ATTENTION TO THEM AND
THEIR CONCERNS. SUCH GESTURES AS THE PERSONAL PARTICIPATION BY
THE PRESIDENT AND THE SECRETARY IN HEMISPHERE EVENTS AND MEETINGS,
TRAVEL TO THE AREA OF HIGH-LEVEL US OFFICIALS, THEIR RECEPTION
OF VISITORS FOR LA, AND CONSTANT HIGH-LEVEL US EXPRESSIONS OF
INTEREST CAN HAVE AS IMPORTANT A BEARING ON OUR RELATIONS WITH
COUNTRIES IN THE AREA AS THE TERMS OF DECLARATIONS AND RESOLUTIONS
OR SUBSTANTIVE DECISIONS.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, SPEECHES
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SANTO02068
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770152-0011
Format: TEL
From: SANTO DOMINGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t1977044/aaaaactg.tel
Line Count: 167
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
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Message ID: 5a9b2aa2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 STATE 84912
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2754089
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRESIDENT'S OAS SPEECH
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, XM, DR, OAS, (CARTER, JIMMY)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/5a9b2aa2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009